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United States Department of Justice United States Attorney's Office District of Minnesota

Rachel K. Paulose, United States Attorney

Jeanne F. Cooney, Director of External Relations Media Line: 1-888-264-5107 **News Release** 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, March 15, 2007

Oakdale Man Convicted on Federal Drug Charges

Minneapolis - Everard Taylor, age 27, of Oakdale, Minnesota, has been convicted on federal drug charges. Late in the day on March 14, 2007, a jury returned its verdict, finding Taylor guilty of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute crack cocaine. The jury deliberated for under two hours after a two-day trial before United States District Court Judge Donovan W. Frank.

Evidence at trial showed that in August of 2005, Taylor sold twenty-four grams of crack cocaine during a police-controlled buy. At the time of his arrest, Taylor was found in possession of eleven grams of the drug. During a subsequent search of Taylor's residence, authorities found an additional twenty-four grams of crack as well as fifty grams of powder cocaine.

Because of Taylor's extensive criminal history, he is facing a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years in federal prison and a potential maximum sentence of life in prison. His actual sentence will be determined and imposed by Judge Frank at a sentencing hearing not yet scheduled.

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This case resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the St. Paul Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Chris S. Wilton and W. Anders Folk.

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